

Letter from the Hon. Henry Clay.

The Chambersburg Clay Club, through a Committee of their body, have recently addressed a letter to the Hon. HENRY CLAY in which they depict, in very strong and eloquent language, the great evils and calamities under which our Country has been suffering, for now fifteen years—and ask that distinguished statesman to tell them why it is that a Country upon which Heaven has showered its choicest blessings—which possesses such a glorious Constitution, such inexhaustible resources, and such multiplied means of happiness, should have continued, for such a succession of years, in so crippled and unfortunate a condition.

To this letter of inquiry, the enlightened and patriotic Statesman of the West replies, in his usual spirit, bold, ingenious, and patriotic style. He portrays the wicked and reckless policy by which our public councils have been disgraced, and the onward tendency of our country impeded, with the strong hand of a master. We earnestly recommend to the serious attention of every American voter, this letter of Mr. Clay. It is the candid and honest expression of the promptings of a warm and noble American heart. We ask every American voter, into whose hands it may fall, to preserve it for frequent reference, from the present time to the day when he will be called upon to give his vote for a Chief Magistrate of the Nation. If he will do this faithfully—and suffer himself to be guided by the lights of political wisdom, and sound patriotism, which are held out—he will then be prepared to exercise his elective franchise in such a manner as to disenthral his Country from the selfish and destructive men and measures, under the influence of which she has been so long suffering.

The letter of the Chambersburg Committee to Mr. CLAY is a long one—and we regret that we are not able to publish the whole of it. The mal-administration of our public affairs is forcibly sketched—and the following inquiry addressed to Mr. Clay:

"Why is it, sir, that with a Constitution of Government so admirably adapted to human welfare—with resources so multiplied and exuberant—enterprise so vigorous—means of intercourse so rapid and commodious, and literature so cheap and abundant, we are not now, as formerly, a prosperous and happy nation—proud of our retrospect, and exulting in the promise of the future? Why is it that all the great branches of our national industry are in a state of prostration or ruin? Our soil and climate have undergone no change for the worse; our machinery for bridging labor and perfecting its products has not deteriorated; our active population has lost nothing in point of energy and skill. Whence is it then that our prosperity has been thrown into abeyance—that the capitalist finds no outlet for his means, and the laborer remains without employment?"

MR. CLAY'S REPLY.

ASHLAND, 25th July, 1843

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication which in behalf of the Clay Club of Chambersburg, you addressed to me, informing me of the organization of that association, and of its determination to co-operate with similar institutions, and our Whig fellow citizens generally, in disseminating and establishing sound principles of Government in the United States. You are also pleased, gentlemen, at the instance of the Club, to request my acquiescence in the various nominations which have been made of me for the office of Chief Magistrate of the United States. I hope the success of the exertions of the Club, in the propagation and establishment of correct principles, may be commensurate with its laudable and patriotic aims. And I tender it my cordial thanks and grateful acknowledgments for the friendly sentiments and wishes which it entertains towards myself. I am infinitely obliged to my fellow citizens for the numerous testimonies of their confidence and attachment, in manifesting their desire that I should fill the highest office in their gift; and whatever may be the final result, my heart will ever be animated by feelings of the liveliest gratitude. The time has not yet arrived, I think, when I ought to decide whether I shall give my consent or not to the use of my name, as a candidate for the office of President of the United States. When it does I shall give to all the considerations which should influence my judgment full weight, and, among them, the friendly wishes of the Clay Club of Chambersburg.

I concur, with you, gentlemen, generally, in the retrospect which you have presented of the administration of public affairs, during late years, and in the measures of policy which ought to guide it. If we are not utterly deceived in the theory of free government, the people of the United States ought all along to have been and should now be, the happiest and most prosperous people upon the earth, but our condition has been, and continues to be far otherwise. It is impossible to contemplate the Administration of the Government, during nearly the last fifteen years, without feelings of the deepest regret and bitterest mortification. That long period has been marked by relentless proscription, similar in spirit, if not attended with the same effusion of blood, as that which is recorded in Roman history to have been perpetrated by Marius and Sulla; by reckless experiments and the overthrow of valuable institutions; by the destruction of the best currency in the world, and consequent derangement in all the business of society; by extensive and scandalous peculation on the part of public functionaries; by extravagant and profligate expenditure of the public money; by attempts to subvert the long cherished policy of the country, under which it had eminently flourished and prospered; by relaxation in the respect and authority due to the law and Constitution; by wide spread and alarming demoralization; by a fearful growth and corrupt use of the power of the executive branch of the Government; and finally, by a degree of perfidy in the head of that branch, of which no equal example can be found in this or any other country, in this or any other age. At the commencement of the administration of the present acting Chief Magistrate, the leaders of our political opponents, with a few honorable exceptions, assiduously courted and caressed him, flattering and praising him for his violation of the just expectations of a confiding people.

They marched up, in solemn columns, arm in arm, along Pennsylvania Avenue, to the Presidential Mansion, to thank and congratulate him, for ex-

ercising a Royal prerogative, to defeat the wishes and hopes of the people. Men, under the abused name of Democrats, loudly exalted in the failure of a measure demanded by the urgent wants and voice, and essential to the promotion of the interests, of the people, exulted in the perverse and corrupt will of one man, overruling the will of a large majority of the nation! In the dispensations of an all wise Providence, retributive justice is sure to come sooner or later. The acting President, so much wooed by political leaders, in the beginning of his administration, now, as its approaches, in his turn, and very much to their annoyance, exercises all his blandishments upon their party. Nor is their danger or regrets diminished, by the fact, that, whilst their instruments of seduction were honeyed words, his are the lucrative offices of Government.

The great political event of 1840, had an object far more elevated and important than that of a mere change in the high functionaries of the Nation. It was to bring about a radical improvement in public policy. And what, after that event, was the mainly, liberal, and patriotic course which the defeated party should have pursued? It was to have cheerfully acquiesced in the will of the People, proclaimed by an unexampled and overwhelming majority. They should have said: "The people disapprove of our system. They require a sound currency of uniform value. They are opposed to the Sub-Treasury. They demand a distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, among all the States. They insist upon an honest and economical administration of their public affairs. They are opposed to the encroachments of the Executive department, and require salutary restraints upon its power. We shall continue, by free discussion and fair arguments, to recommend our measures, and to expose those of our political opponents; but they are entitled to a fair trial of their system of policy, and will make no factious opposition, nor throw any unreasonable obstacles in their way. Above all, we scorn to employ any arts to seduce, from the path of his duty, the man, who has reached his elevated station, in spite of our strenuous exertions against him, by the confidence which they generously reposed in his honor and fidelity." How far the leaders of the other party have conformed to this upright and straight-forward course, passed and daily passing events sufficiently testify. They prove that the acting President, and the party, which has assumed the name Democratic, without the least color of title to it, are now completely identified, closely united, one and indivisible. If, in the sequel, they should find him an inconvenient associate, they have nobody but themselves to reproach.

The last war with Great Britain taught the patriotic lesson that, during a contest with a foreign power, it is the duty of all parties to unite cordially and to give our arms the greatest possible effect and vigor; and that any party, which violates that principle, is sure to lose the public confidence. Our experience, in a season of peace, will, I trust, inculcate another important lesson, that treachery and perfidy are alike detestable at all times, and will demonstrate, still more clearly, that invaluable but too often neglected truth, in public affairs, that honesty is the best policy.

It is painful even to gaze on the picture of the Administration of the General Government which I have faithfully sketched. It would have been happy for the people of the United States, if it were a mere fancy piece to survey. But their long, general and intense embarrassments have unfortunately too severely assured them of its actual reality. It would have been a much more agreeable task to me to portray the purity, disinterestedness, honor, probity and fidelity of all in the charge of our public concerns; the wisdom of their measures, and the consequent general prosperity of the country. But we now know the nature, extent and causes of the public disorders, and what is no less important, their remedy. That remedy is in the hands of the People. Under other forms of Government, where public spirit is not entirely crushed by arbitrary power, the People would long since have sought redress by violent and convulsive means. It is our peculiar good fortune to have in the ballot box a remedy, which supercedes a necessity of resorting to them, and which is quite as efficacious, and more certain, as well as more peaceful, than the use of the bayonet. And it affords me inexpressible pleasure to say to you that it is my firm belief, from all the signs of the times, from all the causes now in operation, and from all the information which I derive from every quarter of the Union, that a great and glorious deliverance awaits us; and that the People will, in 1844, nobly vindicate their rights, and manifest anew their capacity for self government, by a triumph more brilliant, more decisive, and, I hope, more auspicious than that of 1840. That accomplished, most of the views of public policy, which you suggest, will I trust be enforced, and we shall once more behold our Country honored and respected abroad, beloved and prosperous at home, and steadily advancing in the path which leads to greatness and grandeur.

I am with high respect,

Your friend and ob't servant,

H. CLAY.

Messrs. Sam'l. Seibert, Thomas J. Early, Jas. Calhoun and Geo. A. Madeira.

WHO CAN BEAT THIS?—A correspondent of the Eastern Sentinel boasts thus: As I have often read in the papers of great men being praised for their great deeds, &c. I think I have a right to tell what I have done. First—I was five years a teamster; three years a constable; nine years Justice of the Peace; seven summers I was line burner; nineteen winters I taught school, twenty-seven years a commissioned officer, from Lieut. to Major; thirteen years I was Locktender on Lehigh Canal, Lock No. 46; and I am father of sixteen children—namely; ten sons and six daughters; and the best of my story is, that I have quit drinking liquor. I was born 1789. My name is Hope, and I have faith, and show charity.

WOUNDS ON HORSES.—Take one quarter of a pound of saltpetre, half a pint of vinegar, half a pint of spirits of turpentine—put them together in a bottle, and shake them up before using—apply to the wound three times a day.—Central New York Fair.

THE CALEDONIAN.



Here shall the People's rights maintain,
Unshaken by influence and unbribed by gain—
Here patriot Truth her glorious precepts draw,
Pledged to Religion, Liberty, and Law.

ST. JOHNSBURY.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1843.

THE CALHOUN MEETING IN NEW YORK.

The meeting of the Loco Focos in the city of New York, friendly to the claims of JOHN C. CALHOUN as the Party Candidate for the Presidency, was held, according to notice, on Monday afternoon. In point of numbers at least, the meeting appears to have been very respectable—and many of the leading men of that party, in the city of New York, appear to have deserted poor Martin Van Buren, and to have ranged themselves in the Calhoun ranks. We care not a single farthing which of the two candidates the Loco Focos ultimately select. Whether they put forward the Northern man with Southern principles—or the Southern man with no principles at all, that are of any practical utility—it is all the same to us.

The New York Tribune gives the following account of the Calhoun meeting in that city.

The Calhoun Rally in the Park.—The mass meeting of those friendly to the nomination of the Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN as the Loco Foco candidate for the Presidency, held last evening in the Park, was attended by about four thousand people, and the proceedings were marked by quiet, perfect order, and an utter lack of all enthusiasm. The meeting was organized by the election of Stephen Hasbrouck, Esq. as President, with the usual array of other officers. A very long string of resolutions was then introduced and adopted, of which we can only signify the general purport. They proceed first to declare their conviction that Mr Calhoun is "pre-eminently qualified to administer the general government according to its true principles, and consistently with the best interests of the people and the progressive spirit of the age." They enumerate as among the acts which entitle him to this preference, his adherence to the doctrine of State Rights, his bold & uniform support of the principles of Free Trade, & his efforts to enlighten the popular mind 'with regard to primary or abstract principles.' They respond heartily to the declaration of Mr Van Buren, that "no one can expect or should desire to be always in office in a government like ours;" and protest against the effort to force his nomination upon the party against his own published wishes. They proceed to advocate the District System of electing Delegates to the National Convention, pronouncing the old method of counting votes in such Conventions unconstitutional and unjust. The following resolutions we copy as they stand:

Resolved, That while the friends of all the other Democratic candidates for the Presidency are favorable to the District plan of sending delegates, as well as the vote and count per capita in the Convention, we regret that many of the friends Mr Van Buren have taken a stand in opposition to arrangements so obviously constitutional and just. Have they any doubts as to the real popularity of their candidate to make them fearful of trusting him to a Convention of delegates elected by the people themselves—to a Convention democratically organized and voting and counting the votes, like all other representative bodies?

Resolved, that while we reverence the true voice of the people, and would extend to the honest convictions of every American citizen the same respect which we claim for our own, yet we will not bow down to any false image of public opinion that the Nebuchadnezzars of party may set up: That while we are ready to yield much to the spirit of harmony and democratic brotherhood, we will yield nothing to political jugglery: And we would remind the opponents of popular representation, that should they succeed in excluding any portion of the party from a voice in the nomination of a President, they must at the same time exclude the persons excluded from all obligation to support their nominee at the election.

Resolved, That it confirms our faith in the intelligence of the people to perceive the increasing popularity of Mr Calhoun in all parts of the Union, the efforts of a cordon of organized presses & the proscriptive echoes of a host of ejected officials to the contrary notwithstanding. We therefore recommend to the friends of Mr Calhoun in every part of the United States to hold meetings, in order to act in concert with each other for the sake of the cause, the man, and the country. And we call upon his friends in the several Wards of this city to organize themselves to act in vindication of their constitutional rights when necessary.

The adoption of these resolutions was followed by a speech from James T. Brady, Esq. in which he set forth very clearly and candidly the reasons which induced their preference for Mr Calhoun over the other candidates for the Presidency. He spoke with bitter indignation of the attempt of a portion of the Democratic party to force all its members to the support of a man they loathed, and declared that the disposition of party had become so perfect under their direction, as to be no longer endurable by men who had the spirit of freedom in their hearts. The whole power of the party machinery, he said, had been seized by a set of men who sought solely for their own aggrandizement, and cared no more for the people, whose good they professed to seek, than for the stones of the pavements upon which they walked! Their insolent rule must be broken. The people must choose their own candidates, and that without dictation or restraint.

Mr Brady spoke at length of the commanding talents of Mr Calhoun—of his fearless independence and peculiar fitness for the high Executive station to which his friends wished to raise him. His stern, unbending hostility to a Protective Tariff, and his devotion to the cardinal principles of Free Trade, were urged as commending him strongly to the Democratic party of the Union. His proclamation of the doctrine of State Rights, he said, was the only true ground of liberty & happiness. He spoke with bitter contempt of the charges of inconsistency that had been made against Mr Calhoun, & said that no man of thought & honesty could fail to change his opinions in the course of years. He agreed with O'Connell, that "consistency was a very comfortable thing when one was right; but in the wrong it is only obstinacy." Besides, the charge, he thought, came with a bad grace from the friends of Mr Van Buren—and he pointed to the walls of Tammany Hall as having echoed sentiments which were now loudly denounced by the Democratic party.

Mr Brady reminded his friends of the necessity of nominating a candidate of ability, of commanding character, and whose principles on all political questions are boldly & clearly defined. The Whigs, he said, had been purged and purified by the change they had effected in 1840—and would rush into the contest of 1844, with the gallant Harry of the West, the bearer of their standard, and Protection to American Industry inscribed upon its folds. They must be met, he thought, by no half way measures—but by no hollow hearted men. He urged upon the meeting the necessity of action, and exhorted them to organize at once and prepare for the contest.

When Mr Brady had concluded, a young man named Barber attempted to speak—but the audience declined the shave, and put him down by cries for Walsh. After a long time 'Mike Walsh' was hoisted upon the stage, came forward with neither coat nor vest, and made the following speech—which we report verbatim:

"Fellow Citizens—I come before you as an individual. I was not consulted concerning this meeting—and I shan't speak."

He thereupon marched off with a detachment of his friends, and the meeting, after some remarks from Mr Wallace, soon adjourned. It was attended by a very large number of most respectable citizens, who are evidently deeply in earnest in their preference for Mr Calhoun, and are determined not to be cheated in the coming game. They may succeed, but they are dealing with a practiced political gamester, desperate in his fortunes, yet cool enough, even if the dice be not loaded, to throw them with a skilful hand.

The following just opinion of the Loco Foco party is from the Augusta Age, a Loco Foco paper:

"THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS ROTTEN, ITS LEADERS ARE CORRUPT, NO GOOD IS TO BE GAINED FROM A LONGER ADHERENCE TO IT, and unless it can be made to undergo some violent and radical change, by breaking up and remodeling it, the country is better off under FEDERAL DOMINATION," (meaning by the term "Federal" the friends and upholders of the Constitution of the United States.)

Resolved, that our motto is and ever shall be 'Principles not men.' [Eric County resolutions.]

The Locofocos who passed this resolution supported General Jackson when his principles were—

1. A United States Bank.
2. Distribution of the Proceeds of the Sale of the Public Lands.
3. A Protective Tariff.

They now support Martin Van Buren who is opposed to each of these principles. Yet they have the impudence to declare that their motto is 'principles not men!'—Rochester Daily Democrat.

THE WHIG SYSTEM.—Home labor; work at home; sell at home; spend at home; employ our own countrymen in preference; help Americans first; protect American labor; assist American industry; let the South feed the North; the North supply the South; what we don't want, ship away; what we can't make or produce we will buy of foreigners. This is the Whig system; this is Whig policy. We love our own dear country, and our own countrymen, before any foreign nation; and mean first to take care of American men, and American boys, American girls and women.

We are not an idle people: we must and we will live by our labor. It feeds us and clothes us, and we mean to take care of that labor in preference to any veto, or any power, foreign or domestic. Hence we want a domestic and protective tariff.—Annapolis Republican.

A Loco Foco paper says, "the snow has been falling upon the whig party in Indiana"—to which a whig journal replies, "So it has; but beware! when that snow melts, then will come a flood, that will sweep before it every trace of Loco Focism." There was a similar snow storm in 1839; but in 1840 the flood followed, and so it will again.—Ex.

TYLER'S DOINGS.—Great excitement has been caused in Indianapolis, by the removal of Joseph M. Moore, a Whig, and a very worthy and highly esteemed man, from the office of Postmaster at that place, and the appointment of John Cain, a thorough going Loco Foco, in his stead. Mr. Moore was appointed by Tyler—and is dependent on the office for his support, and that of his family;—while his successor is a man of property, to whom the office is a mere sinecure. The Indiana State Journal very justly remarks that "the act is altogether worthy of the wicked and weak political aspirant whose accidental power has effected it."

HORRIBLE SUICIDE. A most dreadful suicide occurred on the Columbia railroad, near the inclined plane. A passenger named Charles Axe, aged about 40, accompanied by his son, aged about 14, who had got into the cars at Harrisburgh, with the intention of proceeding to Troy, leaped from the one in which he was seated, and after running a short distance, threw himself upon his back across the rail, when the wheels passed over his breast, crushing his body in a shocking manner, and killing him instantly. His son stated that early in the morning, his father expressed a desire to kill himself.

COUNTERFEIT COINS. In our paper of Wednesday last, we mentioned a half dollar which had been shown to us as counterfeit, and which we were alarmed to find a perfect imitation of the coin in every respect, weight, impression, milling, being all perfect; but which, as we thought, exposed its false character, by failing in the ordinary test of the ring. We also stated that quarter dollars of the same character, were said to be in circulation.

One of the officers of the Mint has been at the pains of looking up the coins which gave rise to these suspicions, and has called to inform us that they were in fact genuine, but that they were deprived of the quality of ringing, by having a split at the edge which could be plainly seen, especially if a magnifying glass were used. When the test of the ring fails, these cracks should be looked for, as they sometimes occur, giving rise to suspicion of the piece in question—and, what is worse, to doubts as to the safety of our metallic circulation.—U. S. Gazette.

AN AMERICAN BRIDE.—Not a "Yankee girl" of whom our poetical friend, O. W. Holmes, has sung so generously, but the Brazilian Princess lately married to the son of the king of the French. The following is the statement of her dowry:

"The *Moniteur* contains a royal ordinance promoting the Prince de Joinville to the rank of Rear Admiral. This ordinance is followed by the marriage act of the Prince with the Princess of the Brazil, which was signed on the 31st ult., in the palace of Neuilla, in presence of the royal family, Marshal Sault, M. Guizot, the minister of the Brazil, Baron Pasquier (Chancellor of France,) and the Duke de Cazes (Grand Referendary of the Chamber of Peers,) acting as the civil officers.—We learn from the *Journal des Debats*, that the princess brought her husband as dowry, first, 1,000,000 francs in specie; secondly, a revenue of 180,000 francs arising from Brazilian stock; thirdly 25 leagues of territory, in the province of Santa Catarina, at the choice of the prince; fourthly, a yearly income of 26,000 francs, together with jewels to the amount of 200,000 francs; fifthly, a present from the Emperor of the Brazil of 300,000 francs for her outfit. Independently of these advantages, she is to succeed to the throne of the Brazil, to the exclusion even of her eldest sister, if the Emperor Don Pedro II., and the Princess Jenuaria, the presumptive heirs to the crown, should die without issue."

TEXIAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO.—One of the Mier prisoners, confined with others near Mexico, has written a letter to the editors of the New Orleans Picayune, dated "Powder Mill Prison, near Mexico, July 4, 1843," in which is given a full statement of the fate of the Texian prisoners, taken at Mier, on the 26th of December last.

The fate of those unfortunate prisoners, there being of them in all 156 souls, is thus briefly summed up.

At work on the roads in Mexico,	118
At the Hospital in Mexico,	34
At St. Louis Potosi,	31
At Matamoros,	6
Released by order of Santa Anna,	6
Escaped from Mier,	11
Left in the Mountains,	16
Killed and died at Mier,	18
Shot by order of Santa Anna,	1
Murdered at the Salada,	17
Died at Mexico on the Road,	19
Prisoners at Perote,	10
Escaped from Perote,	3

A MONSTER. We learn from an English paper, that a gentleman travelling along the road near Coldbrook, had his attention attracted to the screams of a child in the care of a tramping woman, who had two other children totally blind also with her. The cries of the child were so distressing that he insisted on knowing the cause, but not getting a satisfactory answer, he forcibly removed a bandage from its eyes, when, horrid to relate, he found them encased with two small perforated shells, in which were two live black beetles for the purpose of destroying the sight. The woman was instantly seized and given into custody, and at the magistrate's meeting at Eton, committed for trial. There is too much reason to fear that the wretch produced the blindness of the other two children by similar means.

DISTRESSING GALE AND LOSS OF LIVES.

A friend at Kennebunk has furnished us with the following particulars of the loss of the four men from a schooner belonging to Kennebunk-port, mentioned in our paper of last week. It appears, too, that fears are entertained for the safety of another vessel, in company with the one which suffered such loss. Many of the enterprising seamen of Kennebunk have met a watery grave within the last two years.

"Arrived at Cape Porpoise, August 25th, fishing schooner Aranauch, from Bay Chaleur. On Sunday, August 20, the Seal Islands bearing North, 30 miles distant, the Aranauch experienced a heavy gale of wind during which she shipped a sea, staving in her bulwarks, rails and stanchions, and washing from the deck, the skipper and four men. One of the men, being entangled in some rigging, was saved with the assistance of the two who were left on board. The others were lost, viz:

Eli Hutchins, Skipper, aged 43 years.
Eli Hutchins, Jr., aged 24 years.
John Hutchins, aged 18 years.
Joseph Wilder, aged 30 years.

The Aranauch sailed from the Bay in company with schooners Echo, Hutchins, Louisa, Grant, and James and Henry, Silas Pinknam, all of and for Cape Porpoise. The Echo and Louisa have arrived, but the James and Henry had not been heard from up to the evening of the 1st of September. She was in company with the Echo the day previous to the gale, and well grounded apprehensions are entertained that she was lost, with all on board, during the gale of the 20th. The crew of the James and Henry consisted of seven persons.—[Saco Democrat.]

EARTHQUAKE. The country south of us (says the Cincinnati Gazette,) has been visited by another severe shock of earthquake. A passenger on one of our steamers informs us that when near Memphis it was distinctly felt on the river; so much so that he thought the boat had grounded or struck a snag. The shock was attended with considerable noise, and is said to have continued nearly a minute.